

Serial No.: 10/777,147
Docket No.: 102-1010
Amendment dated November 17, 2005
Reply to the Office Action of August 17, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following paragraph:

--FIG. 2 is a graph comparing the impulses generated by the pitch error of the first passive roller gear 21 while in rotating engagement with the drum gear 11, where the first passive roller gear 21 is made of the material having the relatively lower hardness than the drum gear 11, as shown in the embodiment of FIG. 1, with the impulses caused by the relation of gears used in the conventional art. As shown in FIG. 2, in the case of using a material having a strong hardness according to the conventional art, there occurs strong impulses in every pitch period of each gear tooth of the first passive roller gear. Due to such abrupt and repeated impulses, it becomes difficult for the first passive roller, i.e., the charging roller 20, to rotate at a constant rotation ratio with respect to the photoconductive drum 10. Namely, a deviation in rotational velocity is partially generated in the vicinity of the rotational period of the charging roller, and by such deviation, non-uniform charging may be generated. In contrast with the conventional art, in the case of the invention provided in the present embodiment, and illustrated in FIG. 1, the impulse or impulses that occur during every pitch period of the gear tooth of the first passive roller gear are remarkably reduced, and the intensity of the impulses becomes smooth. As is revealed by such results, it is expected that the impulses generated by the pitch error in the first passive roller gear 21, made of a material or materials having the lower hardness, is damped.--